

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095834

FOR WORTZEL FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. ON THE BERBEROVIC VISIT, WE AND ICA AGREE THAT REINHARDT IS MORE APPROPRIATE THAN CHRISTOPHER TO ACT AS "NOMINAL" HOST, PARTICULARLY AS THE NEW AGENCY MAKES HIM THE CLOSEST EQUIVALENT WE HAVE. CHARLIE BRAY, WHO WILL BE ACTING HEAD OF ICA THAT WEEK, WILL HOST A LUNCHEON AND ALL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING COORDINATED THROUGH HIS OFFICE. WE HAVE ASKED FOR A CALL ON CHRISTOPHER BUT HAVE NO DEFINITE RESPONSE YET. CHRISTOPHER IS UP TO HIS EARS IN PANAMA CANAL BUSINESS AND IS ACTING SECRETARY BESIDES. WE ARE NEVERTHELESS HOPEFUL THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE BERBEROVIC, BUT THAT IS ALL WE CAN REALISTICALLY EXPECT.

2. THE FORRESTAL FLIGHT OPS CABLE WAS THE BEST WE COULD
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MANAGE. IF YOU FEEL THAT TWO WAY FLIGHT OPS WOULD BE UNREASONABLE AT THIS TIME (ASSUMING THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WILL EVEN CONSIDER THE VISIT WITH NOTIFICATION THIS LATE) THEN GO AHEAD AND MAKE THE CASE.

3. WE ARE EVEN MORE CONFUSED ABOUT THE GIFTS FOR TITO THAN WE WERE BEFORE. PROTOCOL NOW SAYS THAT MRS. CARTER

DID NOT SEND A BIRD SCULPTURE TO TITO, BUT DID TO MRS. BEGIN A WEEK LATER. THEY SAY THERE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE TWO GIFTS: THE SIGNED, FRAMED PHOTO OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS, AND THE ALBUM OF SPACE PHOTOS. THE FIRST PACKAGE DOES NOT SOUND LIKE EITHER OF THESE. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST IF THE EMBASSY CHECKED THE CONTENTS BEFORE SENDING IT ON, THEN LET US KNOW WHAT IT WAS.

4. WE ARE CONTINUING TO GET HEAT ON ALIMIS CASE, AS YOU MAY IMAGINE. ONE THOUGHT WE HAD WAS TO SEE WHETHER BARBARA WATSON MIGHT GO TO BELGRADE, PARTLY TO DEMONSTRATE OUR CONCERN ON THIS CASE AND PARTLY TO TRY TO GET SOME MOVEMENT ON THE BROADER QUESTION OF DUAL NATIONALS, CONSULAR ACCESS AND POSSIBLY EVEN A CONSULAR CONVENTION.

5. ASSIGNMENT FOR RON NEITZKE. PLEASE TELL THE AMBASSADOR THAT BILL LUERS ASKED US TO INFORM HIM THAT, ON HIS RECOMMENDATION, HE DID TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK AT RON, WHOM WE ALREADY HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THE ROMANIAN DESK JOB. HE DID LOOK EXCELLENT, BUT THERE WERE TWO PROBLEMS. ONE WAS THAT HE WAS AN FSO-5 FOR AN FSO-4 JOB WHICH, AS YOU NO DOUBT KNOW, IS A VERY DIFFICULT FEAT TO ACCOMPLISH THESE DAYS. SECONDLY, THERE WAS A FSO-4 CONTENDER WHO HAD SERVED CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ROMANIA AND THEN IN INR AS ROMANIAN ANALYST, AND WHO IS VIRTUALLY BILINGUAL IN ROMANIAN. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTORS, WE HAVE NOW MADE THE DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE OTHER CANDIDATE. NEITZKE HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING A JOB AS STAFF ASSISTANT TO TONY LAKE, WHICH HE'S PLEASED ABOUT. BILL WILL PUT IN A GOOD WORD ON HIS BEHALF. CHRISTOPHER

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